

ALLOWANCE

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art for the features of the claimed invention are Baerlocher (US Patent 6,776,711), Nguyen (US Patent 6,857,959), Yoseloff (US Patent 6,331,143; hereinafter Yoseloff), Moore, Jr. (US Patent 5,964,463; hereinafter Moore), Walker et al. (US Patent 6,174,235; hereinafter Walker), Hamano (US Patent 5,205,555).

However, Baerlocher alone or in combination with Nguyen, Yoseloff, Moore, Walker, and Hamano does not disclose a gaming machine and a method of using the gaming machine having player operable selectors, a display and plural award sets having plural outcomes, **wherein** each outcome is either an integer having a positive value or a non-winning outcome that has no value, **and wherein** each award set has at least one outcome that is an integer having a positive value, **and wherein** a total number of the integers having a positive value in any one of the award sets is not equal to a total number of the integers having a positive value in any other of the awards sets, **and wherein** a sum total of the positive value for all integers in any one of the award sets is equal to a sum total of the positive value for all integers in any other of the award sets, **and wherein** one of the award sets is designated to one of the plural selectors for each plural selector and displayed on the display, **and wherein** the operation of the selector is by player operation to select one of the displayed designated awards, **and wherein** an outcome is selected by the gaming machine after the selection of a

displayed designated award set is completed by the player operation of the selector, **and wherein** game play credits, which have a value equal to the positive value of the integer selected from the selected displayed designated award set, are awarded when the selected outcome is one of the total number of the integers that have a positive value. Thus, the claimed invention is not anticipated by nor obvious over the closest prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARTHUR O. HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-1814. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 5:00 pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. O. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Scott Jones/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714